

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009**

The monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 27, 2009, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair, Paul E. Brule, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Denise R. Arsenault, John C. Bento, Diana B. Campbell, Karen A. Lynch and John P. Saviano; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: Marjorie J. McBride

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Accolades

The MT. HOPE HOCKEY TEAM played their way to the State championship games, something that the hockey team was unable to do for some time. Every player worked very hard to get there and unfortunately lost in the last game.

The R I Interscholastic League bestows sportsmanship awards to athletic teams that display the responsibilities associated with good sportsmanship throughout their season. We are very proud to say the Mt. Hope 2009 Girls' Indoor Track Team received the Sullivan Division Sportsmanship Award and the Mt. Hope 2009 Boys' Indoor Track Team received the Metropolitan Division Sportsmanship Award.

Update on the Science Fair competition at the State level --

Our Mt. Hope students made us very proud once again. At the Amgen Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair several students were awarded medals:

Kim Hoffman, Third Grant

Christina Fontana, Second Grant and

the Francis J. Monahan Memorial Scholar in Science Award

Amy Moreira, Second Grant

Corey Silvia, Second Grant

Erin Aparicio, First Grant

AND

Marissa Simeone's and Ross Neale's project was chosen one of the

two Best of Fair projects out of the top ten in the State; they will go on to compete at the International Science Fair in Reno, Nevada in May. Their trip will be paid for by the state. We are also very proud of the teachers that helped them, especially Mr. Munzert who helped them with their project, Mr. Koger who continually helped them to meet their deadlines, and Mr. Waddell who helped them to create an incredible backboard.

The Yale University School of Music invited 50 distinguished music educators to attend the Yale University 2009 Symposium on Music in Schools to be held on the Yale campus on June 10 and 11. At the symposium educators will have the opportunity to explore the role of music in the general classroom, learn about Venezuela's unique music education system and will be honored at an awards dinner. Fifty honorees were selected from 448 nominations from 46 states and we are so very proud to recognize Mt. Hope teacher, Mr. Robert Arsenault, as one of these distinguished honorees. Mr. A will be awarded the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award.

The Mt. Hope High School Gymnastics Team, under the direction and guidance of Head Coach Melissa Gendreau, won the 2009 Divisional Championships. We congratulate the Coach and team members:
Kristin Belmore Kyle MacGovern
Caitlin Bisbano Heather Marshall

Kara Blake Kaitlan McQueeney
Kayla Dallaire Kayla McConaghy
Chelsea Francis Ashley Ramsay
Erin Hebert Kiley Ramsay
Melanie Luminello Jessica Varrichione

Nine members of the Mt. Hope High School Special Olympics Team competed in the East Bay Regional Games on Saturday, April 18th at Rogers High School. Collectively the team captured 23 gold, silver and bronze medals while competing in a variety of track and field events. The athletes will compete again at the State Games on May 29th and 30th. We would like to congratulate the team members from Mt. Hope High School:

Lowell Cabral - Gold in the softball throw

Jaquelyn Doyle - Gold in the softball throw and Silver in the 50m dash

Harry Emery - Silver in the softball throw

Taikwan Francis - Gold in both the 50 and 100m dashes, Silver in 4 x 100 relay

Zelinna Garcia - Gold in the 50m dash and Silver in the softball throw

Tommy Lake - Bronze in both the 50m dash and softball throw, Silver in 4 x 100 relay

Ryan Miranda - Gold in both the 100 and 200m dashes, Silver in 4 x

100 relay

Allison Mosher - Silver in the 50m dash

Marina Temple - Gold in the 50m dash, Silver in 4 x 100 relay

PUBLIC COMMENT

Destiny Archambault was invited by Mrs. Campbell to introduce herself to the Committee and tell her reason for attending. Ms. Archambault explained she is a Roger Williams University student who, for a class project, must write a paper on democracy in action so she is here to observe. Mr. Silva welcomed her.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve the consent agenda; Mrs. Campbell, Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION #S2009-22

That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the authorization to issue refunding of \$12,800,000 general obligation bonds dated July 15, 1998.

Mr. Silva took this recommendation out of the agenda order in consideration of Mrs. Sandra Mack, the District Bond Counsel, who was present to explain the refunding.

MOTION: Mr. Saviano motioned to approve; Mr. Brule seconded. Mrs. Mack said it is a rare occasion to be able to offer \$450,000 in savings; they had asked our financial advisor to review outstanding bonds to refinance at a lower interest rate. The purpose of this vote is to approve the actual issuance of funding bonds; however, they will watch the market and choose a pricing date to buy at a favorable time. If the market falls below 3% they will not move forward. The motion to approved passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell said the next meeting is May 19, 6:00 PM at Oliver; any agenda items should be brought to Mr. O'Dell.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell reported a few policies for a second reading tonight; the next Subcommittee meeting is May 4, 6:00 PM at Oliver; the minutes to the last meeting were delayed but will be in the next Committee packet.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Saviano had nothing to report at this time.

FUTURE ENROLLMENT AND FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Mrs. Lynch said there is nothing to report at this time; a meeting will be set within the next two days and will be published in the newspaper.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES cont'd.

**Recommendation # S2009-20 A-E: CONSENT AGENDA –
PERSONNEL**

A. APPOINTMENT: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position listed below:

1. Amy Kneath Child Outreach Screener (Part Time)

**Effective: April 1, 2009, to the extent of
grant funding only, pending
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: IDEA Preschool Grant

B. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Kelly A. Allen Child Care Provider (Part Time)

Effective: March 23, 2009, for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

C. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Amie D. Carvalho General Subject Matter**
- 2. Michael T. Connell General Subject Matter**
- 3. Michelle S. DeMello General Subject Matter**
- 4. Vanessa M. Estrella Elementary**
- 5. Jane A. Knight Elementary/Sp.Ed.**

- 6. Charles J. Kovach General Subject Matter**
- 7. Caroline Place Elementary**
- 8. Charles J. Ryan General Subject Matter**
- 9. Mary C. Shannahan General Subject Matter**
- 10. Kristen M. Whitaker General Subject Matter**

D. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for classified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

- 1. Elin L. Drance-Macedonio**
- 2. Shawn M. Hollands**
- 3. Kimberly A. Januario**
- 4. Stephanie Sloat**

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

- 5. Carlos M. Correia**
- 6. Fermin Elexpuru**

E. RESIGNATION: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignation of Julie Cardente from the position of Child Care Provider as listed

below:

1. Julie Cardente Child Care Provider

Effective: March 25, 2009

Reason: Personal

Recommendation #S 2009-21: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, award the bid for the sewer injection pump for Mt. Hope High School.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve. Mr. Saviano seconded.

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to amend to include "to Allied Water Management for a total amount of \$45,340, which includes the base price of \$44,965 plus option 1 for payment bond of \$375." Mr. Saviano seconded. Mr. Brule explained that this pump is top of the line and the price includes replacement of everything; he does not advise purchasing a spare pump or a hand hoist as they are not necessary. The motion to amend passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

The motion to approve as amended passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2009-11: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, adopt the new School Committee Policy JHCH Peanut / Food Allergy Policy (Second Reading)

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to approve; Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion to approve passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Recommendation #S 2009-12: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and supported by the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee, approve the revised School Committee Policy JGF Bullying Policy (Second Reading)

MOTION: Mr. Brule motioned to approve; Mrs. Lynch seconded. Mr. O'Dell reiterated his concern for the person who reports an incident and his request for a wording change.

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell motioned to amend to change the wording of item number 12 to include "and/or those reporting" after "Victim" in line 1, and in line 2 change "the victim's" to "their". Mrs. Lynch seconded.

Mrs. Campbell commented:

"I discussed this issue with Mr. O'Dell in a phone call last night.

It is my belief that people who report incidents of harassment, bullying or dating violence do not suffer the same level of trauma as the victims of these incidents. To check out my belief, I contacted Principal Don Rebello to ask him about his thoughts:

- In his experience, reporters do not usually suffer trauma as a result of reporting such an incident. He doesn't recall ever having an incident where the reporter required intervention.
- Many times, a reporter will request anonymity.
- Some will discuss their plans or their feelings with a teacher, guidance counselor or an advisor
- Of course, he pointed out that if a student felt the need to see a counselor, he/she would be encouraged to do that.
- He also noted that teachers who are reporters never suffer from trauma when reporting an incident like this.

When a person reports on something like this, they have made a choice. Most come to the decision to report because they are concerned about a friend or because it's the right thing to do.

Victims, on the other hand, have no choice in the matter – to say otherwise would be the same as blaming the victim. One day a victim is “whole” and the next (or over time) they are broken.

This policy that we are discussing, assures victims that we will do what we must to help them to become whole again.

To say that a person who makes the conscious decision to report harassment, bullying or dating violence has the same or similar feelings as a person who had no choice in the matter is **JUST WRONG.**

In the case of this policy,

- Students are told that they have an obligation to report (#10)**
- Teachers are told that they have an obligation to report (#8) and that they must make it easy and comfortable for a student to report (#7).**

In the case of the victim – someone who didn't ask nor seek to be a victim – their traumatic experience often necessitates that the school go the extra mile to assure them that there is help available and to make them feel safe.

When I had my discussion with Mr. O'Dell, I don't think he expected me to be so vehement in my response. Frankly, I sort of surprised myself. I did not realize that my own feelings of guilt, shame, and anger from a dating violence incident that happened to me when I was a college freshman, could still be so raw. If my feelings, after 37 years, are still this vivid, imagine the feelings of a young girl today – one that we're responsible for!

By including "reporters" in #12, we are putting the trauma of a victim on the same level as the concerns of a reporter.

Personally, I am deeply offended by this proposal to make this change. It sends the wrong message.

#12 is a clear message to victims: The BWRSD cares deeply about

your safety. We are here for you. There is help available for you and we will help you to get it.

I do not support changing this policy as proposed. It says and does what it needs to with regards to our responsibility to keep our students and staff safe.”

Mrs. Arsenault stated that she worked with Mrs. Campbell on this policy; she feels that if a student reporting harassment becomes a victim, the policy will cover them; NO student will be victimized. Mrs. Lynch commented that she did not believe Mr. O’Dell was putting the reporter on the same level as the victim; we have policies for thousands of things and if this change helps only one student, it is worth putting it in the policy. Mr. Saviano said he saw first hand when he worked in the high school witnesses feel intimidated although not on the same level as the victim; bullies have a tendency to continue bullying and witnesses become victims; he feels that without protection, witnesses will not come forward and agrees with the amendment.

By a show of hands, the motion to amend passed by a vote of 6 to 2 with Mrs. Arsenault and Mrs. Campbell opposed.

The motion to approve the policy as amended passed by a vote of 6 to 2 with Mrs. Arsenault and Mrs. Campbell opposed.

Announcement

Dr. Mara asked everyone's help in regards to the swine flu virus situation; this is not an emergency but he asked parents to please report to their school nurse if their child comes down with a virus or respiratory system compromise; the District will continue to encourage students to wash their hands and keep them away from their faces. Also please report if anyone in the household exhibits these symptoms; all information will be kept confidential.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 7:41 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Saviano motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:41 PM for an update on BWEA and Council 94 contract negotiations. Mr. Brule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Silva said the Committee will not take any action during Executive Session or when open session resumes.

Mr. Silva recused himself from Council 94 contract discussion and Mrs. Arsenault recused herself from BWEA contract discussion.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:38 PM

In Executive Session, the Committee discussed the items noted above. No action was taken during Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:39 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Brule, seconded by Mr. Saviano, motioned to adjourn at 8:39 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, for
Marjorie J. McBride, Secretary**

/c